

Kickapoo Valley Reserve

Adopt-A-Trail

Trail Maintenance Guidelines:

Listed below are some techniques and details for some of the common maintenance activities. The amount of trail maintenance required and frequency will vary according to weather, topography, trail design, condition, usage and availability of coordinators/leaders. Trail maintenance should be performed within the volunteer's ability and experience, and should never be performed alone.

Activities:

1. Selectively remove brush and undergrowth to approximate trail widths. The intent is to maintain safe and passable trails without losing the natural appeal.
Equestrian – 5 ft from center of trail each side; 10 ft. high
Mountain Bike – 10 ft wide; 8 ft. high
Hiking – 2.5 ft from center of trail each side; 5 ft. total; 7ft high
Shared-Use – 5 ft. from center of the trail each side; 10ft high
2. Remove downed trees that are able to be moved by hand. No cutting of standing trees is to be done by volunteers. Report tree falls to KVR Staff.
3. Prune trees that overhang the trail, making sure to cut branches flush with the parent branch or tree trunk. Trimmings should be placed on the downhill side of the trail well off the trail. ***Do not leave dangerous stubs protruding from any tree or brush.***
4. Small trees, 2 inch diameter or smaller, and or brush from the ground should be cut as close to the ground as possible and pull roots using a Pulaski tool if possible. ***Do not leave any sharp pointed stumps or stems.***
5. Clean debris from culverts
6. Monitor drainage ditches/dips. Report issues to KVR staff.
7. Report and block off non-designated trail activity (trail blazing) including areas where users are cutting switchbacks. Preferred method of blocking trail blazing is with natural down materials, creating a barrier.
8. Remove berms from trails to facilitate appropriate water run off.
9. Identify, report and eradicate invasive species working closely with KVR staff.
10. Perform hazard inspections– looking for such things as sink holes, rocks, blocking trees, hanging trees, hazard trees, bridge failures, washouts, major erosion, and missing or damaged signs. GPS locations of hazards are helpful. Report findings to KVR staff.
11. Report large trail issues/problems to KVR staff as soon as possible. Trails should be checked after a storm event.
12. Identify, mark, and report dead or damaged trees that are a falling hazard onto the trail. GPS locations are helpful.
13. Pick up litter.